

The House Committee on Human Relations and Aging offers the following substitute to HB 935:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To amend Chapter 12 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to commissions and other agencies, so as to create the Georgia Commission on Reducing Poverty and Increasing Economic Security; to provide for a short title; to provide for a legislative purpose; to provide for membership to such commission; to provide for certain requirements for membership to such commission; to provide for certain procedures regarding such commission; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Chapter 12 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to commissions and other agencies, is amended by adding a new article to read as follows:

"ARTICLE 10

50-12-150.

The General Assembly recognizes that the citizens of Georgia have experienced considerable economic hardship due to the severe recession and that there are people living in extreme poverty in every county in Georgia as well as many others who have or will experience poverty before the economy recovers. It is, therefore, necessary to determine the extent of poverty throughout the state, and to seek policy remedies aimed to protect and afford opportunity to all citizens, including adequate nutrition and housing, educational and work opportunities, health care, and safety.

50-12-151.

(a) There is created the 'Georgia Commission on Reducing Poverty and Increasing Economic Security,' hereafter referred to as the commission. The commission shall

develop a comprehensive plan to address the needs of the average Georgian with particular concern for Georgia's most vulnerable citizens: children and the elderly. The initial goal of the commission is to develop a strategic plan to reduce extreme poverty in Georgia by at least 50 percent by 2015. In developing the overall strategic plan, and in working toward the goal of creating and maintaining jobs in the state, the commission shall address, at a minimum, the following:

(1) Access to affordable housing;

(2) Access to adequate food and nutrition;

(3) Access to affordable and quality health care;

(4) Access to quality education and training;

(5) Dependable and affordable transportation;

(6) Access to affordable child care;

(7) Opportunities to pursue work which sustains families; and

(8) The availability of adequate income supports to those who can no longer work or can not find work.

(b) The strategic plan shall include specific policy and fiscal recommendations and a timeline for each stage of implementation for each recommendation. For each recommendation, the commission shall identify in measurable terms the actual or potential impact. The commission may review and may make comments and recommendations on existing or proposed programs, policies, administrative rules, and statutes that have an impact on poverty in Georgia and, in particular, people living in extreme poverty.

50-12-152.

(a) The commission shall consist of the following:

(1) Two members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(2) Two members of the Senate, appointed by the Lieutenant Governor; and

(3) Twenty members of the public to be appointed as follows:

(A) Four members appointed by the Governor;

(B) Four members appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(C) Four members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor;

(D) Four members appointed by the Commissioner of Labor; and

(E) Four members appointed by the State School Superintendent.

(b) The members appointed pursuant to paragraph (3) of subsection (a) of this Code section may represent the following poverty-related areas of the community: state-wide faith-based organizations that provide direct social services; state-wide organizations that represent the industrial business sector; organizations that represent and promote small

business; labor organizations that represent primarily low- and middle-income wage earners; anti-poverty organizations, including one that focuses on rural poverty; organizations that provide state-wide health care; organizations that advocate for children and youth; organizations that advocate for quality and equality in education; organizations that advocate for people who are homeless; organizations that advocate for senior citizens; and municipal or county governments.

(c) Members of the commission shall serve without compensation.

(d) Commission members shall be appointed within 60 days after the effective date of this Act. The commission shall hold its initial meeting 30 days after at least 50 percent of the members have been appointed. At such initial meeting the commission shall select a person to serve as chairperson and vice chairperson, respectively. The commission may appoint such other officers and establish committees to further carrying out its purpose set forth in this article.

(e) The full commission shall meet at least quarterly. The commission shall issue a report on the economic well-being of Georgia citizens to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, no later than January 1, 2011. The commission shall produce subsequent reports on its activities and recommendations on January 1, 2012, and on January 1, 2013. The commission shall cease to exist after January 1, 2014."

SECTION 2.

This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.

SECTION 3.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.